Review
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The chapter on hospital practice suffers similarly from the restricted frame of reference. Whereas the fruitful recent studies of hospitals have profited markedly by employing theories of institutional structure and small group organization, the writers tend to see the hospital as a culture, a "seemingly callous culture" (p. 173). The discussion makes little use of available theory of the social psychology of illness. The role of language and other systems of symbols in the etiology of psychosomatic illness is left out of account, as is any discussion of the self as an object to the person. The authors seem to equate the self with the naked body (p. 181).

As it stands the title of the volume is a little misleading; a more apt choice would have been "Social Anthropology and Medicine."

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*A Theory of Social Control.* By RICHARD T. LAPIERE. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1954. xi, 568 pp. $7.50.

Sixty years ago E. A. Ross, in the old Stanford University library, conceived of social control as the "linchpin" that holds society together. In the course of the next half-dozen years, Ross worked out the details of his pioneer treatise on Social Control. Some twenty years ago, R. T. LaPiere began to formulate the theoretical conceptions of the treatise under review. Although LaPiere followed Ross at Stanford, he has based his analysis mainly on the ideas of Ross' persistent critic, Charles H. Cooley. This orientation has resulted in a far narrower conception of social control than is customary in sociological circles.

LaPiere views social control as one of the three "forces" that enter into the determination of human conduct. The other two forces are the socialization of the individual and "The impact of specific situations on the individual" (p. vi). As the "third force," social control "mediates between the personality and the specific situation in which the individual acts" (p. vi). LaPiere believes social control, thus conceived, is derived, for the most part, from an individual's desire for status in small, intimate, continuous, primary groups. The individual is induced to adjust to the norms of his primary groups by his need to gain an approved status with them. Conceived of in this way, social control is an extension of social psychological theory rather than of sociological theory. LaPiere realizes his theory is a limited one. He is content, apparently, to leave to others the formulation of a theory of social control that takes into consideration social and cultural phenomena outside the scope of his interests.

This combination treatise and textbook is soundly designed and carefully constructed from Chapter 1, "The Problem and Its Setting," to Chapter 18, "Social Crisis, Demoralization, and Control." Each step in the development of the theory is expounded and illustrated by research data or descriptive examples before the next step is taken. The sprightly style of the author contributes to the lucid exposition and aids the reader to move ahead with interest and understanding.

LaPiere's theoretical position runs counter to tenets of cultural determinists on the one hand, and, on the other, to the beliefs of those who assume the individual is motivated by unconscious forces rooted deep in the human psyche. LaPiere, also, challenges the currently popular assumptions of the "mass society" school of theorists who believe man in western society is the victim of control by "mass communication."

LaPiere is aware of the challenges his theory poses for other theoretical positions. Rather than ignore them, he succinctly states antithetical theories one by one. Then he shows they are untenable from his perspective. In carrying out this necessary ground clearing operation, he demonstrates his mastery over riposte. His deft turn of phrase will titillate most readers, but it may be a stressful experience for those who have verbal darts tossed in their direction.

This is a significant book, and it may be a controversial one. It needed to be written; the field of social control has lagged behind other fields in sociology largely because we have had neither an adequate statement of theory, nor an up-to-date text. This book should be read widely by journeymen sociologists, for it sets a model sociological theorists might well follow, both in its thought structure and its lucidity. Graduate students should find it of value; undergraduates can understand it, but they will need good teaching to accompany it. The one negative reaction of this reviewer is the conviction that LaPiere might have given more credit to E. A. Ross, F. E. Lumley, and L. L. Bernard. The influence of Ross has gone beyond the mere fact that both he and LaPiere worked on the Stanford campus. Men well grounded in the history of American sociology will recognize Ross' influence in more than one chapter of the book, but this debt is not acknowledged.

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